

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

A free market economy, while perhaps ideal, is not enough to sustain our democratic system of governance. In today's complex world, the public requires information in great quantity and from a wide range of sources in order to make important personal and civic decisions. With a majority of that information being delivered through our mass media systems, it is essential that those systems represent a diversity of perspectives.

But media consolidation threatens this diversity by placing important editorial decisions in the hands of an ever-decreasing number of corporate leaders. The result is a more homogenous and entertainment-focused news media. As market forces continue to fuel larger and larger mergers and acquisitions, it is the responsibility of the FCC to see that these trends do not overwhelm the public interest. Media ownership rules help to ensure competition in the marketplace, which in turn yields diversity and quality of content in the news media. In the end, such an approach will benefit both our democracy and economy.